



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

18 FEBRUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Three Guatemalans Extradited to US on Cocaine Trafficking Charges

(U) Three Guatemalan nationals who were extradited to the US face international cocaine trafficking charges. The three are charged in separate indictments stemming from Operation Guerrilla Unit, a long-term investigation spearheaded by Homeland Security Investigations and the US Attorney's Office in San Diego. The Guatemalan nationals include Augusto Jean Carlo Castillo-Hernandez, aka "Metal," Jorge Alexander Campos-Oliva, aka "Peluda," and Fabio Josue Campos-Oliva, aka "Black Chivita." Court documents describe the defendants as organizers and leaders in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Guatemala and elsewhere. The defendants and their co-conspirators are alleged to have coordinated the smuggling of tons of cocaine from South America with an ultimate destination of the US.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Stanislaus – Dozens Arrested, Nine Victims Rescued in Human Trafficking Operation

(U) More than 60 people were arrested, and nine victims were rescued during a human trafficking operation in Stanislaus County, authorities said. The Turlock Police Department, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office and other agencies participated in the two-day operation called "Operation Rebuild and Reclaim" last Friday and Saturday. Nine human trafficking victims were rescued during the operation. Two guns and more than two pounds of methamphetamine were also found by Turlock officers. All of the adults arrested were taken and booked at the Stanislaus County Jail for prostitution charges. One of the arrested was a 16-year-old but was later released on a citation to a parent. The Turlock Police Department asks that anyone with information regarding these cases, or similar cases contact investigators.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [KCRA](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – CBP Seizes Nearly 1,000 Pounds of Meth, Fentanyl at Southern Border

(U) Lukeville – On Monday, CBP officers with the Port of Lukeville deferred a 47-year-old Phoenix man for additional inspection of his RV after he attempted to enter the US. After a narcotics detection canine alert, a search led to the discovery of 129 packages of drugs hidden within the roof-mounted A/C unit. The drugs, which totaled 880 pounds of meth and 110 pounds of fentanyl, had a net worth of nearly \$4.4 million. Officers seized the drugs and vehicle, while the subject was arrested and then turned over to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [ABC 15](#) [US CBP](#)

(U) Texas – Four MS-13 Gang Members Arrested in the Rio Grande Valley

(U) Edinburg – Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector Border Patrol agents arrested four Salvadoran gang members this week. On 15 February, McAllen Border Patrol Station (MCS) agents arrested two Salvadoran nationals and MS-13 gang members on separate encounter. One had prior arrests and

removals from the US. On 16 February, MCS processing agents encountered another two Salvadoran nationals whose record checks revealed they are MS-13 gang members. The two individuals had numerous removals from the US. All four were taken into Border Patrol custody.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Pentagon Audit Reports Insufficient Screening of Afghan Evacuees

(U) Washington – Afghan evacuees made it to US soil without being checked through all the government's security databases, a Department of Defense (DoD) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reported yesterday. After re-running some of the names, officials spotted at least 50 Afghans with "potentially significant security concerns" who made it the US despite assurances to the contrary. Additionally, the location tracking of the evacuees within the US was found deficient. The DoD looked at a sampling of 31 security risk evacuees identified as of 17 September and found only three could be located. Tens of thousands more names remain to be checked, the inspector general said.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [Washington Times](#) [DOD OIG](#)

(U) New York – US-based Ghanaian Pleads Guilty to Laundering Over \$35m In Scams

(U) Manhattan -- Fred Asante pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering for his role in a criminal enterprise based in the Republic of Ghana involving the theft of tens of millions of dollars. Asante was arrested in Virginia and pled guilty yesterday. From about 2013 through about 2020, the criminal enterprise committed fraud against residents and businesses in the US, including New York. The enterprise would trick businesses into wiring funds into its account, and conduct romance scams via email, text, or online dating sites to trick victims into sending them money under false pretense. The enterprise would also submit fraudulent loan applications to the US Small Business Administration through a program meant to provide relief to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Asante would then withdraw, transport, and launder the proceeds to other members of the organization.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [US DOJ](#) [Daily Voice](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Canada – Police Arrest Leaders of Trucker Convoy

(U) Ottawa – Police have detained two leaders of the trucker convoy in the Canadian capital as they move to break up the last stronghold of the protests against the nation's COVID-19 rules. Tamara Lich was arrested yesterday, and Chris Barber was held, with both expected to be charged criminally. Authorities have already cleared other protests located at border crossings. It comes days after Canada invoked an emergency law for the first time. However, officers had not yet moved in on the remaining demonstrators as of yesterday evening. The Ottawa demonstrators - many parked in some 400 heavy trucks and other vehicles on city streets around Parliament - have been warned they face arrest as well as having their trucks seized, their insurance suspended, and bank accounts frozen.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [BBC News](#) [ABC News](#)

(U) Canada – Axe Attack, Violent Vandalism at Coastal GasLink Pipeline Site

(U) British Columbia – The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is currently investigating an incident where individuals allegedly engaged in a violent confrontation with employees of Coastal GasLink (CGL) near Houston, BC. Houston RCMP was called to the scene yesterday after CGL security reported approximately 20 people, some armed with axes, were attacking security guards and smashing their vehicle windows. Some CGL employees were initially trapped, but all had managed to safely leave the area. Upon arrival, police discovered the roads blocked with downed trees, tar covered stumps, wire,

boards with spikes in them, and fires lit throughout the debris. Several people threw smoke bombs and fire lit sticks at the police, injuring one officer. When police arrived at the drill pad, they found significant damage had been done to heavy machinery, fencing, and portable buildings. The cost of damage done is extensive. CGL issued a media release calling the incident a highly planned and dangerous unprovoked assault against its employees.

SOURCE: 18 February 2022, [Alaska Highway News Vancouver Sun](#)

(U) Mexico – Authorities Intercept More Than 1,000 Migrants in One Day

(U) Mexico City – Mexican authorities announced yesterday they intercepted 1,266 migrants in the last 24 hours in efforts to curb entry of undocumented travelers seeking to make their way to the US. The National Migration Institute (INM) said the migrants were located in operations carried out in 22 states of the country, with about 10% of them minors and many of them traveling alone. Mexican authorities identified 33 nationalities among the migrants intercepted from Afghanistan, China, Russia, and several other countries. The majority were from Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The INM said it had identified 741 men and 322 women, as well as 203 minors.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Switzerland – Red Cross Announces Network Data Breach By a Zoho Bug

(U) Geneva – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) revealed that an attack that breached its network in January was conducted by a nation-state actor that exploited a Zoho vulnerability. In January, a cyberattack on a Red Cross external contactor resulted in the theft of personal data for more than 515,000 highly vulnerable people seeking missing families and originated from at least 60 different Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies worldwide. Stolen data includes information belonging to individuals separated from their families due to conflict, migration and disaster, missing persons and their families, and people in detention. The attackers remained inside the Red Cross's infrastructure for 70 days before being detected. ICRC revealed the hack is consistent tactics with advanced persistent threat (APT) groups, however, the organization did not attribute the attack to a specific threat actor.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [Security Affairs](#)

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